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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/073,460	02/11/2002	Hiroto Oka	B422-181	4404

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, LUONG TRUNG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2612

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/073,460

Applicant(s)

OKA ET AL.

Examiner

LUONG T. NGUYEN

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 August 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/01/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed on 8/29/2005 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicants' arguments are addressed in the context of the following rejection.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is objected to because of the following informalities:
In the title, "SYCHRONIZING" should be changed to --SYNCHRONIZING--.
Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:
Claim 1 (line 8), "includes (a)" should be changed to --includes: (a)--.
Claim 1 (line 10), "apparatuses (b)" should be changed to --apparatuses, (b)--.
Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-2, 6-7, 9-10, 12-13, 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lowy et al. (US 5,768,151) in view of DeAngelis et al. (US 5,552,824).

Regarding claim 1, Lowy et al. discloses an image pickup system comprising a plurality image pickup apparatuses (master camera 11 and slave camera 12, figure 2); a control apparatus adapted to set one of said plurality of image pickup apparatuses as a master camera (CPU 26, frame grabber 25, figure 2, master camera 11), wherein said master camera includes a synchronization information generating unit adapted to generate synchronization information for synchronizing said plurality of image pickup apparatuses (means for synchronizing SYNC SIGNAL, figure 2, column 5, lines 5-12), an image data generating unit adapted to generate image data using said frame synchronization signal (figure 2 shows that based on SYNC SIGNAL, slave camera 12 generates frame image data transmitted to frame grabber 25).

Lowy et al. fails to specifically disclose a communication unit adapted to transmit said synchronization information to said plurality of image pickup apparatuses, and a frame synchronization signal generating unit adapted to generate a frame synchronization signal using said synchronization information and time information for managing a communication cycle of said communication unit.

However, DeAngelis et al. discloses a network with plurality of cameras of which one is a primary camera C1 and the rest are slave cameras Cj (figures (9A-9B, column 21, lines 7-34), and DeAngelis et al. also disclose each tunable camera periodically communicates (communication cycle) with a precision timer and after initially establishing synchronous time, periodically re-tunes its clock rate to maintain synchronicity. Thus, in a system employing such

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cameras, each frame generated by a camera is marked with an “absolute” time marking (time information), column 21, lines 1-34. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device in Lowy et al. by the teaching of DeAngelis et al. in order to allow an user to monitor multiple scenes at the same time on a display.

Regarding claims 2, 7, 10, 13, 16, DeAngelis et al. discloses wherein said communication unit is adapted to transmit said synchronization information by an isochronous transfer (all slave cameras periodically synchronize their clocks, figure 9A, column 21, lines 1-34).

As for claim 6, all the limitations are contained in claim 1. Therefore, see Examiner’s comments regarding claim 1.

As for claim 9, all the limitations are contained in claim 1. Therefore, see Examiner’s comments regarding claim 1.

Claim 12 is a method claim of apparatus claim 6. Therefore, claim 12 is rejected for the reason given in claim 6.

Claim 15 is a method claim of apparatus claim 9. Therefore, claim 15 is rejected for the reason given in claim 9.

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6. Claims 5, 8, 11, 14, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lowy et al. (US 5,768,151) in view of DeAngelis et al. (US 5,552,824) further in view of Iijima (US 6,286,071).

Regarding claims 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, Lowy et al. and DeAngelis et al. fail to specifically to disclose the communication unit conforms to IEEE1394-1995 standard or its extended standard. However, Iijima teaches a communication system 100, in which an IEEE1394 high-speed serial bus may be used as a control bus which connects DV camera/recorder 50 to plurality of electronic devices (figure 1, column 6, lines 22-49). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device in Lowy et al. and DeAngelis et al. by the teaching of Iijima in order to alleviate a burden imposed upon the user when the user operates a plurality of electronic devices connected by the communication control bus such as IEEE1394 serial bus (column 5, lines 23-30).

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUONG T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-7315. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, NGOCYEN VU can be reached on (571) 272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LN LN
11/25/05


NGOC-YEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER